**South Dakota Agricultural Education (AFNR)**

**Academic Integration Activities**

**ACTIVITY #4**

*Horticulture students will be able to understand how slang and colloquialisms impact the meaning of plant descriptions from forms of text.*

1. **Ag Standard**

Horticulture, H. 1.1: Write a description for a plant species.

1. **Academic Standard**

11.R.2.1: Students can analyze how diction affects the interpretation of text.

• Identify dialect (a particular variety of language spoken in one place by a distinct group of people)

• Determine how slang, colloquialisms, and dialect impact meaning.

1. **Background Information**

Informal language, such as slang and colloquialisms, can affect the meaning of text because using slang and colloquialisms can indicate who wrote the text and where the text was written.

Slang is generally defined as language peculiar to a particular group ( e.g. teenagers, surfers, soldiers, etc.)

A colloquialism is a word or phrase that is typically used in a certain area or region( i.e. “pop” in the Midwest vs. “soda” on the coasts vs. “coke” in the South.)

1. **Example in Context**

Read this description of a plant:

**Pinktopia, an Easy Elegance rose, packs masses of dreamy medium pink blooms against dark green leaves. Pinktopia’s new growth is a stunning red. It makes a great low-maintenance accent plant or hedge. Recurrent bloom cycle. Grows 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Zones 4–9.**

Use these questions to interpret:

1. Where was the informal language used?

-Dreamy.

1. Is this slang or colloquialism?

-Slang, because it is a language use by a group instead of a region.

1. How does this wording affect our interpretation of the plant description?

-Many answers.

1. **Guided Practice Exercise**

Read this description of a plant:

**For sheer carnal gorgeousness, no other temperate-climate flower even comes close. Of course, if you’re used to looking at things with the cold, steely eye of reason. Oriental poppies reveal some flaws: they bloom early and all too briefly: the taller kinds are apt to flop: and after blooming, their foliage goes into a prolonged and hideous decline before disappearing altogether.**

Use these questions to interpret:

1. Where was the informal language used?

-Steely eye of reason.

1. Is this slang or colloquialism?

-Colloquialism, because it is a language use by a region instead or a particular group.

1. How does this wording affect our interpretation of the plant description?

-Many answers.

1. **Independent Practice Exercises**
2. Identify three slang words or phrases that would describe a plant species. Identify the group that would use that slang word or phrase.
3. Identify two colloquialisms that are from two different geographical regions that would help describe a plant species.
4. Write one description of a plant using one of the slang words in your list and write another description of a plant using one of the colloquialisms in your list.
5. **Notes**

Students could also search for examples of slang and colloquialisms in magazines or the internet.